



THE BULLSEYE BULLETIN

Wisconsin Hunter Education Newsletter

#100 March 2006

The Centennial Newsletter

From Tim Lawhern, Hunter Education Administrator

CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU! No doubt you are seeing a brand new look to the official newsletter of the Wisconsin Hunter Education Program with this Centennial Issue #100. It also happens to be the official newsletter of the International Hunter Education Association called the IHEA JOURNAL.

We were approached by Focus Group, the company that prints the IHEA Journal, to begin a partnership in delivering both the Journal and the Bullseye Bulletin to every instructor in our state. This partnership saves us time and money, which can be used towards other projects to help volunteer instructors. We hope you enjoy receiving both items packaged into one document.

Our heritage and history of hunter education have played an important role towards where we are today. Here are a few notes of importance:

- Our program began in the summer of 1967
- The incident rate for hunting accidents in 1966 was 44 per 100,000 participants
- In 1994 that rate had dropped to 4 per 100,000
- In 1966 there were 265 reported hunting incidents with 21 fatalities
- The NRA rated our program Number 1 in the nation in 1974
- Blaze Orange became mandatory for Gun Deer Hunting in 1980
- Basic hunter education became mandatory in 1985 requiring anyone born on or after January 1st, 1973 to have a hunter education certification before they could purchase a hunting license
- Our program developed and offered the Worlds first alternative delivery (CD-ROM) of hunter education in 1996
- We developed and implemented the countries first volunteer hunter education instructor academy in 2001
- There were 38 total hunting incidents and 3 fatalities reported in 2005
- To date we have certified 13,517 volunteer instructors in hunter education, 2,451 in bowhunter education, and 6 in advanced rifle marksmanship
- To date we have certified 846,347 students in hunter education and 37,947 in bowhunter education
- At the end of 2005 we maintained a total active volunteer instructor corps of 5,129 (the largest volunteer instructor corps in North America!)
- In the spring of 2005 we certified our first corps of advanced volunteer hunter education instructors for Rifle Marksmanship

This list represents the outstanding efforts of many people and the results of a continuing corps of dedicated volunteer instructors and department staff. A Job Well Done!

We thought it would be interesting to include a snippet or two from a couple of previous newsletters. We chose newsletters number 1 and 50 to select these.

From newsletter number 1:

- “As you know, the state program got underway in the latter part of August, after distribution of instructor manuals and certificates. Since that time, you have trained over 3,000 students.”
- “Many instructors have discovered that it takes from one hour to one and one-half hours to complete the 50 minute lesson plans....”
- “We have a limited number of transparency sets available for use with overhead projectors on a loan basis.”
- “The winter months are ideal for conducting hunter safety training. There is less conflict with other activities, and it gives the instructor an opportunity to work with youngsters who have received Christmas guns.”

As you can see, some things have changed and others remained with us. Now for some items from newsletter number 50:

- “Congratulations! You are in the Top Ten.”
- “Some survey results...here’s some of what you told us...” “97% of you are male, 90% married, 49% professional or skilled workers, 64% age 30 to 49; 70% have children and 85% of them hunt; 55% teach more than one course a year; 19% are certified teachers
- You view serious threats to hunting as: trespass, anti-hunting movement, using alcohol before or while hunting, littering or defacing, poaching, poor marksmanship failure to make adequate effort to retrieve wounded game, property damage by hunters
- You believe hunter education and hunting can be improved by more student hands-on in the courses, greater participation by girls and women, more instructor skills workshops, advanced hunter education courses for experienced hunters, more shooting ranges, and more team teaching.”

Again, it is interesting to compare the views of the volunteer instructor in 1986 to today. Perhaps we should repeat that survey to document the changes.

All of the administrators of the hunter education program since day one know the success of the program depends on the efforts of the volunteer instructors. Without you, the volunteer, we would never have accomplished the things the program is noted and recognized for nationally. The names of the Hunter Education administrators, in sequence, from the beginning to the current date are: **Dale “Swede” Erlandson, Homer Moe, John Plenke Sr., Robert Tucker, Larry Johnson, Tim Lawhern.** All six of us were and are deeply touched by such a dedicated group of individuals both in the volunteer ranks and within the department as employees. Hunter “Safety” Education is truly the premier example of how government partners with its citizens to accomplish a common mission.

This year (2006), in August, we will be hosting our first in a long time Statewide Hunter Education Conference. We have selected the dates August 18-20. The location will be Stevens Point. We have reserved 300 spots for volunteer instructors. A small registration fee will be charged. The fee will go towards the conference. The rooms and meals for those 300 will be paid by the hunter education program. We have many special guest presenters scheduled from around the country. Our mission will be to bring this group of instructors together to celebrate our successes and to learn what the experts see in the crystal ball for the future.

From there we will begin the development of the strategic plan for hunter education into the future. As a famous hockey player once said about the secret to his success, “I skated to where the puck was going to be rather than trying to chase after it.” We must plan to be in the correct position before the puck arrives. There is more to come to each of you on this Statewide Conference in a personal letter. You may receive the letter before you receive this newsletter.

Finally, remember our work is not done. We have many challenges to face into the future. Our record thus far has been exemplary and our ability to change and be resilient has allowed us to grow. Change is inevitable; its growth that’s optional. With your help and continued dedication to be the best in our business, there’s no good reason we should expect anything less than the continuation of our hunting heritage.

All of us in the DNR thank you for your every effort towards accomplishing our mission.

Advanced Hunter Education – Rifle Marksmanship Instructors Selected

By Tim Lawhern

This past fall, after 2 previous pilot courses for rifle marksmanship, the hunter education program held its first certification course for instructors in advanced hunter education. We are pleased with the turnout and interests shown from our volunteer instructor corps to participate in this historic event. We now have 6 instructors in our Advanced Hunter Education Program for Rifle Marksmanship. Those instructors will be offering this 2 day clinic to the public throughout the year in 2006. The announcements for the clinics will be posted the same as our basic hunter education courses on our DNR website for upcoming classes. **Preregistration is required.** The fee will vary according to expense necessary to host a clinic. Experiences with this program have shown them to be very popular, educational, and most importantly fun.

Participants in Rifle Marksmanship are required to bring their own scope-sighted deer hunting rifle and about 80 rounds of ammunition. All training will be provided by department certified instructors specific to this program. There is a short classroom portion, a lot of shooting and coaching, and a session on how to correctly and properly clean a scoped rifle.

This marks the first in a continuing series of species and topic specific clinics and seminars that will be developed

as offerings in Advanced Hunter Education. Instructors for these clinics and seminars will be selected based on their knowledge, skills and abilities to teach the specific subject as developed by the department. We have previously held pilot courses in Muzzleloader Hunting and Shotgun Shooting.

Later this spring we will be

certifying our first group of Shotgun Shooting instructors and issuing them each a trailer that contains everything they need to host the program. More to come on this and other Advanced Hunter Education programs as they develop.

Greg Dobratz, and Dr. LeRoy Momper made the final selection. After considerable discussion the decision was made to offer 3 probationary positions as Rifle Marksmanship Instructors to **Jamie Biermann, Paul Newell and Richard Netzing**. Congratulations to these individuals. (Above is a picture of the new Rifle Marksmanship Patch.)



2006 Wisconsin Deer & Turkey Expo

Certified Wisconsin hunter safety education instructors are offered a free admission ticket to the 2006 Wisconsin Deer & Turkey Expo, March 31 – April 2, 2006 at Exhibition Hall, Alliant Center, in Madison. To receive your free ticket, show your instructor identification card at the ticket window when you arrive.

This offer comes from Glenn Helgeland, president of Target Communications, producer of the show. "We are pleased to make this offer to all Wisconsin Hunter Safety Instructors. It's a way of thanking you for your hard work in teaching the next generation how to hunt safely and ethically," Helgeland explained. *"and to make sure there is next generation hunting."*

Friday night, all youth ages 11 and under are admitted free. There is free admission, with proof of course completion for young hunters who completed a Hunter Education/Safety Course during 2005 or 2006

All other Hunter Education graduates ages 12-18 will qualify for a \$3 discount on any day of the event. You must have proof of completing hunter education.

TOMAH 1904 JOURNAL

December 2, 1904

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One hunter was killed or wounded for every 65 deer killed in the woods of northern Wisconsin and Michigan this fall.

There were 42 dead and 20 wounded, a record for the deer hunting season just closed.

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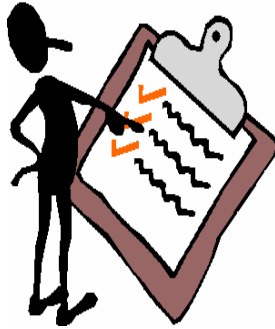
More than one million names are on the veterans' pension rolls of the U.S.

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Hints for you—from Evelyn's Desk

Sitting in Madison, behind the desk, I get questions from each of you. I would like to help make the paperwork easier for both of us.. Hopefully this check list will make it easier.

- ✓ **Eight weeks or earlier**—Find a location for the class.
- ✓ **Six weeks or earlier**—Register the course. Make sure your Registration is written clearly so when we enter it there is less chance of error.
- ✓ **First Class**—Fill in class Course Roster and Remittance and collect \$10.00 fee.
- ✓ **Immediately after last class**—Grade final exams and field tests. If there are failures, record them and reasons for the student not being certified.
- ✓ Mail completed Student Safety Course Registration Cards and completed Safety Course Roster, remittance and a check or money order for the student fee. Student cards for failed students must be sent in. ***Do not send in an incomplete student card or class roster. It is extremely important forms are filled out legibly and submitted immediately.***
- ✓ **Within Seven Days of the course completion**—Mail fees, class roster and student registration cards to the Bureau of Law Enforcement Recreational Safety Section in Madison
- ✓ To save time and get items changed/corrected in a timely manner—be sure when you need changes of any type with your class, have the course number available when you call me.



- ✓ Be certain expenses are authorized. authorized expenses include things such as ammunition, targets, mileage, rental fees to hold the course etc. Items such as firearms, treestands, computers, etc. are NOT authorized expenses.
- ✓ I realize, in an emergency, you need to call in and register your class over the phone. There is less chance of error if you send your registration by mail, or electronically.
- ✓ Notify the DNR Bureau of Law Enforcement or your Regional Recreational Safety Warden of any change of address as soon as possible.
- ✓ Make a decision to learn about Internet Field Days. There is a huge demand for them. Ask your Regional Recreational Safety Warden to show you how to do an Internet Field Day.
- ✓ Take the time to find a young person who has no one to assist him in learning the joy of hunting. If each instructor would only help one of these youths, it would expand the ranks of hunters. (Those who have done this have found it very rewarding.

I'd like to thank each of you for the pleasure of working with and meeting many of you during the last year. If you have suggestions or questions, feel free to call or email me. My email address is evelyn.wilson@dnr.state.wi.us. Phone number is 608-266-2143. Some of you have had to go through another person to get to me, so now you can call me directly.

***"Quality is not an act.
It is a habit."***

—Aristotle



This newsletter was produced with Federal Grant Funds under the Wildlife Restoration Program. Any comments or questions may be directed to the Hunter Education Administrator at Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Law Enforcement, PO Box 7921, Madison WI 53707.



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